

**Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer
and Henry Shields**

Groan Ups

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METHUEN DRAMA

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK
1385 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, USA

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First published in Great Britain 2019

Groan Ups by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields
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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.
A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN: PB: 978-1-3501-5877-1

Series: Modern Plays

Typeset by Country Setting, Kingdown, Kent CT14 8ES
Printed and bound in Great Britain

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Groan Ups was first performed at the Vaudeville Theatre, London on Friday 20 September 2019, presented by Kenny Wax and Stage Presence, with the following cast and creative team:

Mr White	Dave Hearn
Miss Murray	Bryony Corrigan
Moon	Nancy Zamit
Spencer	Henry Lewis
Katie	Charlie Russell
Archie	Henry Shields
Simon	Jonathan Sayer
Paul	Dave Hearn
Chemise	Bryony Corrigan

Understudies:

Mr White, Paul, Spencer Paul Brown
Moon Krystal Dockery
Archie, Simon George Haynes
Miss Murray, Chemise, Katie Holly Sumpton

Writers Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, Henry Shields

Director Kirsty Patrick Ward

Set Design Fly Davis

Costume Design Roberto Surace

Sound Design and Composition Alexandra Faye Braithwaite

Lighting Design Christopher Nairne

Associate Director Katie-Ann McDonough

Groan Ups

'We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing.'

George Bernard Shaw

Characters

Moon

Spencer

Katie

Archie

Simon

Mr White

Miss Murray

Paul

Chemise

The action takes place at Bloomfield's School in 1994, 2001 and 2019.

The same actors play Moon, Spencer, Katie, Archie and Simon at all three ages. Mr White and Miss Murray are doubled with Paul and Chemise respectively.

Act One

Scene One

Bloomfield's School. Spring 1994.

A large faded curtain hangs across the stage. A giant lectern stands centre stage. Lights down.

Mr White Right, settle down please. Come on. Seniors, set a good example for the juniors. Thank you. Now –

Spotlight comes up on a member of the audience.

Sarah Jameson! Spit out the gum. Thank you. Right, notices. Whichever one of you graffitied the English block with the words 'Mr White is obsolescent', you are going to be in a lot of trouble, although good use of vocabulary.

Also, any vegetarians who ate Mrs Van-Eggmond's vegetarian burgers yesterday lunchtime, you are now no longer vegetarians. Now I'm not taking assembly this morning – Year Elevens, stop canoodling at the back! Sidney Johnson, I want your hands where I can see them. Right, I'm going to hand you over to Miss Murray.

Spotlight up on another audience member.

Sean Munnery, stop fiddling with yourself immediately. Here is Miss Murray and Year Two.

Miss Murray Thank you, Mr White. Now Yellow Group from Year Two have been working hard on –

Spotlight up on another audience member.

Mr White Immediate detention.

Miss Murray They've put together some presentations about their weekends. So, please welcome Year Two Yellow Group.

Applause.

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Mr White No. After last year's carol concert I'm not going to allow clapping to be used as a weapon.

Lights up. Spencer, Katie, Moon, Simon and Archie troop on from stage right and form a line looking up at the imagined Miss Murray.

Miss Murray (voice-over) Good morning, Yellow Group.

All Good morning, Miss Murray. Good morning, everyone. 'What We Did on the Weekend'.

The group slap their legs and clap their hands in rhythm.

Moon Hello, my name is Moon.

All What did you do at the weekend, Moon?

Moon comes forward.

Moon My name's Moon and my parents live at the office. This weekend they came to visit me where I live with my au pair, Francesca. She says I am *une enfant terrible*. On Saturday we watched the dressage with the horses. Two of the horses are mine.

Spencer I am a horse.

Katie Horses don't wear capes.

Spencer I am a clothes horse.

Moon Daddy says I have to go to state school so I can learn to be equal with the poor. Mummy says it's called a state school because it's a right state.

Katie My daddy says Moon's mummy is a right state but he still would.

Moon And that was my weekend.

The group slap their legs and clap again.

Archie Hello, my name is Archie.

All What did you do at the weekend, Archie?

Archie This weekend I played dressing up. My favourite costume is mummy's bras. I like to put them on and sing Disney because I'm going to be a star!

Archie sings '*I Just Can't Wait to be King*' by Elton John and Tim Rice. **Simon** joins in on the last line.

The children applaud Archie.

Mr White (voice-over) I said no clapping!

Spencer I am Archie's dad, Mr Patterson. What's all this disgrace?

Moon I am Archie's mum. What is all this shouting, Ronald? I am trying to do my aerobics.

Katie My daddy says Archie's mummy is a bit past it but he still would.

Spencer The boy is in your bras again. I think perhaps I should take him to the football.

Archie I hate football but my daddy said I should love it. And that was my weekend.

The group slap their legs and clap again.

Spencer Hello, my name is Spencer.

All What did you do at the weekend, Spencer?

Spencer This weekend I did a poo. And it was massive. And it was stinky and it was in the corridor and even though my mummy said I had let myself down I was still proud anyway. And I showed it to my daddy and he said that even though he shouldn't be he was impressed.

Moon Spencer has to go for extra classes on Saturdays because he is naughty.

Spencer Miss Murray is teaching me of boundaries. For example how to play of the class hamster. You *must not* stroke our hamster like this.

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He violently smashes his hand on top of his other hand.

If you stroke a hamster like this then he could die.

Simon My uncle died of stroke.

Spencer But that wasn't me.

Katie My daddy was 'ccused of stroking but it was her word against his.

Simon Ding-a-ling-a-ling!

Spencer Home time!

Moon We are Spencer's mummy and daddy. (*Traumatised.*) Spencer you're home. Isn't that good.

Archie Jesus, I thought we had another hour. I need to get out of here! Spencer, where are my car keys?

Spencer (*guiltily*) I have no idea.

He begins to 'buzz' excitedly.

Moon Oh no. He's had sugar.

Spencer runs around screaming and breaking things.

Moon Please stop, Spencer.

Spencer No! Shut up, Karen.

He shoots a grin at the audience.

Katie My daddy says Spencer's mummy is damaged goods.

All But he still would!

Moon That's it, Spencer, no more Smarties!

Spencer I love Smarties! They are the batteries of me! And that was my weekend.

The group slap their legs and clap again. Simon doesn't come in, the others look at him. He manages to find his place in the rhythm.

Simon (*quietly*) Hello, my name is Simon.

All WHAT DID YOU DO AT THE WEEKEND, SIMON?

Moon shoves **Simon** forward. Silence. **Simon** is terrified. **Simon** takes a puff on his inhaler.

Simon This weekend I had nits.

Silence. He scratches his head.

And that was my weekend.

The group slap their legs and clap again.

Katie Hello, my name is Katie.

All What did you do at the weekend, Katie?

Katie steps forward.

Katie I am Katie. On Saturday my mummy put my spelling test on the fridge because I got ten out of ten. I always get ten out of ten. Then my mummy went out.

Archie comes forward wearing a scarf.

Archie This place is a madhouse. I need a drink.

Simon I am Katie's dad. It's only eleven.

Archie Don't I know it. SLAM!

Katie And then the cleaner, Pam, came to visit.

Moon comes forward with a mop.

Simon Katie, you must stay downstairs because Pam and I need to clean the bedroom.

Katie Yes, Daddy. When Pam and Daddy clean the bedroom they are very loud because they can't decide who should have the mop.

Moon Give it to me, Reg!

Simon You want it?

Moon Give it to me!

Simon You want it?

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Moon Oh yes! Give it to me!

Simon gives **Moon** *the mop.*

Simon Yes!

Moon gives *the mop back.*

Moon Give it to me harder!

Simon thrusts *the mop* to **Moon.**

Simon Take it, you kinky horse! You're so much dirtier than my wife.

He takes the mop.

Moon I'm filthy! Oh yeah! That's it! Put it there. Right there! Right there!

Simon Yeah!

Simon starts to clean the floor with *the mop* in one place.

Moon Oh God! Faster! Faster! Faster!

Simon mops quicker and quicker.

Simon Like this?

Mops faster.

Moon Yes! Don't stop! Don't stop.

Simon How about in here?

He puts the mop in the bucket.

Moon No, not in there! Never in there. Only on your birthday.

Katie My daddy is better at cleaning than Pam and he always wins because he always finishes first. This weekend Mummy came back early and saw how clean the room was.

All TA-DA!

Archie I can't believe what I am seeing! In our bedroom!

Simon It's not what it looks like, Gail. Please listen.

Archie I don't give two flying naughty words what you have to say. Get that scrubber out of my house.

Spencer GET OUT!

He swings the space hopper at Moon, taking her down.

Archie I don't know how much more of this I can take. Where are my pills?

Simon You don't need those pills.

Archie What do you naughty word know you naughty word naughty word head?

He giggles.

Katie And then Daddy went on a special holiday to the Travelodge.

All AND THAT WAS OUR WEEKEND.

Blackout.

School bell rings and we hear the sound of kids bustling through a corridor.

Scene Two

*Tabs out to reveal **Miss Murray**'s Year Two classroom. The set is scaled up so the actors look the size of six-year-olds.*

*The kids are playing. **Spencer** is throwing himself around in a superhero cape. **Archie** and **Katie** are arguing over a train set. **Moon** is running around casting spells and **Simon** sits in the corner, his fingers in his ears.*

Miss Murray (voice-over) Line up please, Yellow Group. Fingers on lips.

***Katie** runs over, followed by **Archie** and **Simon**. **Moon** takes a little longer to notice but then joins the line. **Spencer** doesn't notice for a*

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very long time. He keeps charging about, shouting. The others all look at him.

Miss Murray Spencer . . . Spencer.

Spencer looks over at the others. He walks over, still unsure of what to do.

Miss Murray Spencer! What are all the other boys and girls doing?

Spencer *stares vacantly.*

Miss Murray Fingers on lips, Spencer.

Spencer *puts his whole hand in his mouth.*

Miss Murray Alright, close enough. I'm going to leave you alone for a few minutes. But while I'm gone what are we going to do?

All Sit quietly.

Miss Murray That's right, and what are we not going to do?

All Tell the Headmaster we were left alone.

Miss Murray Exactly.

Moon Why can't we play outside?

Miss Murray Because you five are having your break time inside today, aren't you?

Murmur of agreement.

Miss Murray And why's that?

Katie Because of our assembly.

Miss Murray Yes, and what happened in the assembly?

Archie We added stuff.

Spencer Like what I said about my poo.

Miss Murray Yes, that was not what we practised, was it?

Spencer No.

Miss Murray No. Right, I'll be back in a minute.

*We hear the door close and there is another moment of chaos. **Archie**, **Simon** and **Spencer** rush off to the toys in the corner.*

Katie No, stop it. We have to be good. Miss Murray said we have to behave.

Archie Miss Murray isn't here.

Moon Katie, stop being such a worrier and come and play with me.

Katie We're supposed to behave.

Moon YOU HAVE TO COME AND PLAY WITH ME NOW. Let's play princesses. I'll be the fairy princess and you can be the maid who's not magic.

Katie But fairies aren't real.

Moon Yes they are.

Katie No. Only dinosaurs and Jesus are real.

Spencer *is looking around behind the teacher's desk.*

Katie Spencer, what are you doing?

Spencer *hides something behind his back.*

Spencer I found Smarties.

Katie No! Those are Miss Murray's Smarties, Spencer, those are for people with ten gold stars, you don't have any gold stars, you have six sad faces and five angry lobsters.

Spencer I want the Smarties!

Moon No Spencer, put them back, you'll become a handful.

Katie No, you have to do what I say, I'm in charge when Miss Murray isn't here. I'm the form monitor.

Archie No, you have to do what I say, I'm the lunch monitor and I say you have to give them to me.

Spencer No, I'm a monitor lizard and I'm keeping them.

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Katie Give them back. I'm in charge.

Moon Stop being a dictator and do exactly as I say.

Moon grabs the Smarties from **Spencer**.

Moon We have to do a hands-up on who is in charge and they can be the decider.

Archie That's called a vote. The suffering jets gave it to you.

Katie I'm already in charge!

Moon It has to be a mocracy.

Archie Democracy will always fail because of loose fiscal policy.

All look at Archie.

Archie I'm precocious.

Spencer I should be the leader 'cause I'm the crashiest.

Archie No, Spencer. If you're the leader you'll have no time to play with the hamster.

Spencer But I want to play with the hamster.

Archie Well, if you want I can be the leader so you have time to play with the hamster.

Spencer Yeah. Thanks, Archie.

Archie And you can be my head of security.

Spencer YEAH!

Archie Let's shake on it.

Spencer starts shaking.

Archie No we have to do our secret handshake.

They do a secret handshake.

Spencer VOTE FOR ARCHIE! HAMSTER!

He runs over to the hamster cage and starts bashing it.

Moon STOP IT, SPENCER! You're such a traumatiser.

Simon (*timidly*) P'haps . . . p'haps I should be leader because I would make sure we all share.

Beat.

All No.

Archie You can't be leader, you can't say church.

Simon (*lisps*) Yes I can! Church. Church.

He pushes his cheeks forward.

Church. See?

Moon No one votes for Simon. I should be the leader because —

Simon I vote for Moon.

Moon NO, SIMON, LET ME FINISH-ER!! You belong in Red Group with all the problems. Who else votes for me?

She stares at Katie until she slowly puts up her hand.

Archie If you vote for Moon you're like Simon.

All Urghhh!

Katie sits on her hands. **Archie** smiles scandalously.

Archie Moon loses.

Moon No but . . . that's not fair!!

She throws a huge tantrum, screaming and whining.

Moon (*partly improvised with screaming*) ARRGHHH! No! NO! I've had it up to HAAA WAAA YAA! ARGHH!! ARGHHH! I HATE YOU!! ARGHHHH! IT'S NOT FAIR! BECAUSE I'M NOT LIKE SIMON!

She walks off and lies face down on the floor, sulking.

Spencer picks up a squishy rounders bat and uses it as a microphone.

Spencer Let's play news. You're the camera, you're newsman.

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*He turns to **Simon** and ignores him.*

Archie This is election news. But first, it's sports!

Spencer charges at **Simon** with the space-hopper, knocking him over.

Spencer GOAL! One-nil, Simon.

Archie That's the sports. And now over to me with the election interviews. Katie, why do you think you should be leader?

Katie Because when I'm big I'm gonna be prime sinister.

Archie And that's the news!

Moon DUN-DUN. DUN-DUN.

Archie I'll vote for you if you vote for me.

Katie Pinky promise?

Archie Yeah!

*He links pinkies with **Katie**.*

Katie Okay, we can vote now. Moon, who do you vote for?

Moon Katie.

Simon Me too.

Moon You're such a copier.

Katie Spencer, who are you voting for?

Spencer Archie.

Katie Okay. I vote for Archie as well. That's two for Archie and two for Katie. Archie, who do you vote for?

Archie I vote for . . . Archie.

He gives his scandalous smile.

Katie Ahhhh! You liar! You pinky-promised you would vote for me —

Archie I had my fingers crossed.

He shows his fingers crossed.

Katie It's not fair.

Archie Take it up with my head of security.

Spencer FBI!

*He throws the space-hopper at **Katie**. It bounces off her and he catches it again.*

Spencer Crashed it!

Katie Archie! You're . . . you're such an f-word.

*She storms off and sits in a huff. **Archie** grabs the Smarties and he and **Spencer** run off to the corner to eat them.*

Simon I think you would have been a great leader, Moon.

Moon Why?

Simon Just cos.

Moon Bored now.

Moon skips away. **Simon** puffs on his inhaler.

Simon Moon. Moon. Moon!

*He follows **Moon**. **Archie** approaches **Katie**.*

Archie Are you okay, Katie? Do you want to play?

Katie You're a cheater!

Archie You're my best friend.

Katie Thought Spencer was your best friend.

Archie Yeah, he is, but he's still on adding up and we're on times tables.

Katie Ugh. Fine, we can play but only if we play weddings!

Archie What?

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Katie In weddings you get married and then you're my husband and then we have two baby girls and a crippling mortgage.

Archie Errr! No, can we play something else?

Katie Oh fine, you can be the vicar. Spencer, will you marry me?

Spencer Yeah.

Katie Yay, we're married. When I grow up I'm going to have a husband and be prime sinister because I'm going to finger all the pies.

Katie Now we're married we're in love.

She jumps on Spencer.

Spencer YAY! I LOVE YOU!

He belly flops onto Katie.

Spencer Flopped you!

Katie Mummies and daddies have to kiss.

Spencer Yuk!

Archie I . . . I don't want to be the vicar any more.

Katie Too late, you had your chance and you blew it!

Archie No, she's my wife.

Spencer I saw her first!

Katie Stop pulling me, you silly boys.

She pulls her hand away from Archie, who stomps off.

Katie Spencer, what are you going to be when you grown up?

Spencer Tall.

Katie No, like for a job.

Archie has picked up the Smarties and rattles them.

Archie Spencer! Smarties!

Spencer YEAH, SMARTIES!

He runs over to Archie.

Katie Spencer? Spencer! (*Sighs to herself.*) Men!

She storms off. Spencer and Archie giggle together and eat Smarties.

Archie What are we going to do with all the rest?

Spencer gasps. *He guides Archie over to a grate beside the reading corner.*

Spencer Look!

He lifts it up and takes out Action Man, a water pistol and several sets of car keys. He puts the Smarties and the rest of the stuff back in the grate and closes it.

Archie Thanks for voting for me, Spencer.

Spencer Voted!

Archie You're my actual best friend.

Spencer Yeah.

Archie quickly pecks **Spencer** on the cheek and leaves. **Spencer** notices he is alone and looks up at the hamster cage. He grins to himself, climbs up and takes the cage, shaking it a little, giggling softly.

Katie re-enters.

Katie Oh my goodness! I don't like anything you are doing right now.

Spencer But I'm . . . M'not hurtin'.

Katie Put Vincent's cage back, Spencer, or you'll be in trouble and you'll have to go in Red Group with Sean Munnery who put an acorn in his bum.

Spencer Archie said I can play with the hamster now.

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Katie No! You're not allowed, Spencer. I am your wife and I'm wearing trousers and I am telling you to put Vincent back now!

Spencer Don't care. Divorce!

Katie I'm telling Miss Murray of what you're doing.

Katie goes. **Spencer** opens the cage and fishes out the hamster, playing with him in his hands, getting more and more excited until . . .

Spencer I LOVE YOU!

He suddenly throws the hamster to the floor and does a belly flop on top of it. He gets back up and sees that the hamster is dead. He tries to shake it back to life.

Vincent? Vincent? Vincent Van Fluff!

Starting to panic, he runs back and forth with the dead hamster. He takes some paper from the teacher's desk and draws a crude hamster and sticks it to the front of the cage.

Archie comes back in and sees **Spencer** suddenly looking guilty.

Archie What are you doing?

Spencer I'm not naughty.

Archie Spencer, what's happened?

Spencer holds out the dead hamster.

Archie Oh my word!

Spencer Flopped it!

Archie He's dead, Spencer.

Spencer We need to give him surgery.

Spencer grabs a pair of scissors. *He goes to cut the hamster.*

Archie No! Spencer!

Spencer I'm going to be in big trouble!

Archie We need to hide the evidence.

He throws the hamster towards the window, but it is closed and the corpse bounces off the glass.

Katie enters.

Katie Miss Murray says she's coming back as soon as she's finished her wine.

As Katie looks at Archie, Spencer quickly hides the hamster.

Katie Now what are you naughty boys up to?

Spencer Simon did it.

Katie (*looks inside and screams*) Simon killed Vincent?

Moon enters.

Moon Whatever you're playing, you have to let me join in now.

Simon follows **Moon** in. **Katie** points at him.

Katie Hamster murderer!

Simon What?

Katie takes the dead hamster out the desk and holds it up.

Moon Um-ma.

Katie He has to go on trial.

Archie Spencer, you're the judge, you're the defence banister and I'm the prostitution. Simon is guilty.

Moon As the defence, I agree.

Spencer Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

He hits the desk three times.

Simon It's not true!

Archie Shut up, Simon, it's right to remain silent.

Simon (*running away*) No!

He has climbed onto his desk.

Katie He's trying to escape!

Simon Don't come any closer actually or I will jump off.

Moon No, Simon, you will hurt your elbows and die.

Katie I'm getting a teacher!

She runs out.

Simon I am not guilty of killing Vincent. I have been put inside a frame.

Archie Simon, as leader I order you to come down now otherwise Spencer will push you off.

Spencer Order in court. Order! Order! Order!

He hits the floor violently with the space-hopper. Katie enters and they all look up and gasp.

Miss Murray (voice-over) Simon! What are you doing on the desk?!

Simon Killing myself.

Archie He's a lunatic on the run from justice. He must be executed as a strong deterrent.

Katie He killed Vincent!

A terrified silence.

Miss Murray Simon Brown, is this true?

Simon wets himself.

Miss Murray Oh Simon.

Spencer He's let himself down!

Miss Murray Spencer, be quiet! Simon, I want you to calm down and tell me what happened.

Simon It wasn't me.

Miss Murray Spencer. Was this you?

Spencer Was not!

He hurls the dead hamster at the wall.

Miss Murray Spencer! This is the last straw! You are going to have to go into Red Group with Mr Trimmings.

The group gasp.

Archie It was me, Miss. I killed Vincent. I . . . I flopped him. I was the class leader and it went to my head. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Miss Murray Well, that's very honest of you, Archie. Spencer, you stay here. Moon and Katie, take Simon to lost property and find him some clean trousers.

Katie and **Moon** run off and **Simon** follows.

Moon (off) Stand back! He's covered in wee!

Miss Murray Spencer, is what Archie is saying true?

Spencer nods.

Miss Murray So you had nothing to do with this?

Spencer shakes his head.

Miss Murray Okay. Archie, do you understand that what you did was very bad?

Archie Yes, Miss Murray, but can't we just put this down to the follies of youth?

Miss Murray No. I'm going to call your daddy and we are going to have a very serious talk about this. Stay here.

We hear Miss Murray leave again.

Spencer Thanks, Archie. I owe you one.

Archie It's okay, Spencer.

Spencer takes off his cape and gives it to **Archie**.

Archie Love you.

Spencer Yeah.

They hug each other. Lights fade.

The cast perform a medley of Nineties songs as the set changes.

Act Two

The same classroom. Summer 2001.

Everything now appears regular size. The vibrant colours are now muted and drab. Different toys line the shelves, including a few musical instruments that sit in the corner. The lights are dimmed and it is dark outside.

Moon climbs up the tree and in through the window and turns on the lights.

She is now thirteen and wearing a school uniform with her skirt rolled up as short as possible with heavily applied make-up. Her mobile phone rings. She doesn't answer. It rings again. She doesn't answer. It rings again and she picks up.

Moon (on phone) Daddy, stop calling . . . I don't know when I'll be home . . . Because there's end-of-year parties tonight . . . I'm not a baby, Daddy. In two weeks I'm fourteen and then I can like legally have sex in Germany . . . No, I'm not in Germany, Daddy . . . No, it's not going to be like last time . . . Because I'm different now . . . I'm like a totally new person actually. Like completely new. Oh my God, I'm New Moon! Fine, stop my allowance.

Archie appears in the window and climbs in.

Moon Well, maybe, I'll just like get a job and then what? . . . Oh *putain vous*, Papa! Daddy? Dad? Daddy? Daddy? . . . Daddy? Dad! Daddy? Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad.

She hangs up and throws her phone on the floor.

Archie Who was that?

Moon My dad. He's such a pleb. He was like, you can't go out this Friday because we have to spend time as a 'family'.

Archie Yeah. My dad's such a div too, he like forced me to quit the school play so I could do football, which is like fine because I love football but like – yeah.

Moon takes out her gum and kisses **Archie** horribly before putting her gum back in her mouth.

Archie Was that enough tongue?

Moon Plenty.

Archie I can do more.

Moon Maybe do less. Maybe flick it around like less?

Archie Okay.

They kiss again.

Moon What are you thinking about?

Archie Spencer.

Moon What?

Archie I was just, like . . . wondering when he's gonna get here. I'm worried about him. He was really weird last week at band practice.

Moon It's so hot you're in a band. Are you still thinking of changing the name?

Archie No, I think we are gonna stick with The Five Angry Lobsters.

Moon Yeah, hot. You know Stacy Jordan in the year above's having a house party tonight and Richard Taylor invited me to go with him.

Archie Cool.

Moon Aren't you like jealous?

Archie No.

Moon looks at him.

Archie Yes. Yeah, super jealous.

Beat.

Moon Do you want to touch my boob?

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Archie (*faked enthusiasm*) Yeah.

He hesitantly considers how to do it. He eventually places the back of his hand on her left breast.

Moon What's it like?

Archie Yep, it's sick.

Moon Do the other one.

Archie Mmm.

He moves his hand to the right.

Moon What's that one like?

Archie Similar.

Moon This is so bangin'.

Archie Yeah, I'm well turned on.

Moon Are you?

Archie Should I be?

Moon Yeah.

Archie Then yeah.

Katie appears at the window.

Katie Hey!

Archie Katie!

Moon Oh my God, hey!

Archie How are you doing?

Katie (*tense*) I'm okay.

Moon Oh my God, stop stressing. I'm sure you did fine.

Archie Yeah.

Katie It's the End of Year's, Moon.

Moon Exactly. It's the end of the year. Surely even you can chill tonight.

Katie Moon, like this stuff actually matters.

Archie When is Spencer coming?

Katie He's just bringing the alcohol.

Archie Wicked! I'll go help.

He climbs out of the window.

Katie Moon, this stuff is so important to our future.

Moon Eeww, stop talking about the future. You literally sound like a menopause.

Katie If I don't get top marks then Mr Murray-White says I don't get to start an extra GCSE next year and if I can't start an extra GCSE then I won't get into a top university and then I'll have ruined everything before I've even started. Are you not worried about supporting yourself when you're older?

Moon No, 'cause by then my dad'll be dead and I'll be like bare rich.

Simon (off) Moon?

Moon Ohh who told Simon about this?

Simon (off) Moon!

Katie He's such a loser.

Moon I told him once that I like Starburst and now he's like always bringing them to me. But he still calls them Opal Fruits.

She up-turns her bag and huge amounts of Starburst pour out.

Oh I swear to god! Katie, just get rid of him.

Simon (off) Moon!

Moon *hides in the corridor. Simon appears at the window.*

Simon Moon?

Katie No.

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Simon Oh, hey Katie. Is Moon here?

Katie No.

Simon Are you sure?

Katie Yes, Simon!

Simon Nah, this is exactly like at James Plant's house party when I got there and everyone hid in the garage and James Plant's dad said there wasn't a party and I went home on the bus and then James Plant emailed me a photo of the party and I was gonna go back but it was too late because the photo took like three hours to download.

He takes a puff on his inhaler.

Katie Well, she's not here.

Simon Arghh! I can't find her anywhere and her dad called me and told me she's not come home and she could be in danger.

Katie Simon, you need to stop stalking her. Moon doesn't like you.

Simon I don't like her. I'm just like concerned for her safety and me and her dad are friends, he said I'm a sensible young man and he lets me call him Nige.

Katie Ah, Simon, if you like her that much why don't you just ask her out?

Simon Are you insane? I can't ask her out. I gotta play the long game. Get in with her dad, do odd-jobs at her house, become part of the family.

Katie Like her brother?

Simon No, not like her brother . . . like a . . . a forbidden cousin . . . but it's okay because they both want it.

Moon *bursts in.*

Moon OH MY GOD WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

Simon Moon. Hi.

Moon Argh! What do you want?

Simon Nige's really worried about you.

Moon It's nothing to do with you and stop calling him Nige!
It's so unsettling.

Simon I'm always here for you.

Moon No, you're not, you're just always here.

Simon I brought you some Opal Fruits.

He offers her a few packets of Starburst.

Moon STARBURST! They're called Starburst! You're such
a weird little stick.

Simon I'm not.

Moon Yes, you are. Puberty is like a pipe dream for you.

Simon It has started. What are you guys doing here anyway?
Are you having a party?

Katie No.

Spencer and Archie appear at the window with a pack of blue
WMDs. They open the window.

Spencer/Archie WAAAZZUP!

Moon/Katie/Simon WAZZUUUUPPP!

Spencer and Archie climb in.

Spencer Simon, you scrotum, got any pubes yet?

Simon Yeah, loads.

Moon/Archie/Katie/Spencer Errrrr!

Simon I mean, none.

Moon/Archie/Katie/Spencer Ahhh!

Simon I mean I've got . . . like the normal amount.

Spencer Mate, who invited Simon?

Moon No one.

Archie I guess he's here now.

Simon Yes! In the party!

He takes out a disposable camera and takes a photo of himself.

Moon Oh my God, did you just take a photo of yourself? That is so sad.

Archie Spencer's sister bought us four blue WKDs.

Spencer And . . .

He holds out another larger bottle.

Moon (reading) Armagnac?

Spencer Skanked it off my nan.

Archie That's jokes.

Spencer and **Archie** do their 'secret handshake', which is now very complicated.

Katie What if you get caught?

Spencer I'll just say . . . (Sings.) 'It wasn't me'.

Spencer begins to sing 'It Wasn't Me' by Shaggy. All characters join in before **Simon** runs in to take the rap solo. **Simon** gets into a break-dancing headstand. He struggles to sustain it, constantly pushing his feet back up.

Simon Yeah . . . Yeah . . . Yeah.

Spencer Simon, you are irrelevant, mate.

Simon puffs on his inhaler. **Spencer** nervously goes over to **Katie**. Pause.

Spencer Wasup Katie.

Katie Wasup Spence.

Silence.

See you later.

Spencer Yeah, safe.

He goes off to the corner with Archie and Simon, where they open the WKDs and start mixing them with the Armagnac. Moon runs over to Katie.

Moon OMG, what is going on with you and Spencer?

Katie (giggles) Nothing.

Moon Oh my God, where's your make-up?

Katie I don't have any.

Moon Okay, there's no need to freak out. I'm here for you. Sit down. I can't believe you didn't tell me. Oh my God, this is like your first-ever big-deal crush.

Katie I don't know if I want make-up.

Moon doesn't stop.

Moon What are you talking about? Don't worry, we'll make it super subtle. If you don't wear make-up he'll never ask you out.

She takes some deodorant and sprays Katie, then sprays some up her own skirt.

Katie But that's the thing.

Moon Oh my God, shut up. Stop it. Start talking. Tell me everything. He asked you out?!

Katie We . . . we kissed.

Moon UHHH! UHHHH!

Moon collapses on the floor groaning with excitement.

Katie Shhh.

Moon AHHH! Like how? Was he good? We have to score him in my book of boys.

She takes out a notebook.

We can put him after all my ones.

She flips through many, many pages, eventually closing the book.

Do you have any paper?

Katie No.

Moon Did he use tongue?

Katie No.

Moon Okay, then the highest that can get is like a four.

Katie It was really gentle.

Moon Eww, you need to do it with tongues. Okay tell me everything.

Katie Well, like a month ago we were in Biology and Spence got moved to the front to sit with me so he'd be good and at first he was like, 'Aww Katie, you're such a boff.' But then later he was like, 'Aww Katie, that's a well neat table.' And I was like, 'Yeah I know.' And then we stayed after class –

Simon has walked over. **Katie** and **Moon** stare at him.

Simon Hey.

Katie/Moon No.

Simon walks away again.

Katie So then we stayed after school to talk about cells and the stuff Spence was saying was like philosophy, but he didn't like know it was philosophy but he's like really deep.

Moon Oh my God I love accidentally deep boys.

Katie He's actually really sensitive.

Spencer Oi-oi!

Spencer *farts loudly, holding a lighter behind him so the fart ignites in a small ball of fire.*

Katie And then like . . . we looked at each other and then we kissed.

Moon Oh my God! You know what else you need to do? You need to graze his dick.

Katie What?

Moon Boys love it! Next time you're near him just like reach over him to get like a book or something and as you come back just like graze his dick. I'll draw it for you.

Spencer (*over the other side of the room*) Oi, Simon. You wanna be in Five Angry Lobsters?

Simon No, no, no, you always do this.

Spencer No, we mean it this time. Richard Taylor's quit so we need someone.

Archie Yeah we can't play Guns N' Roses covers without a recorder player.

He laughs scandalously.

Spencer Yeah man, come to rehearsal tomorrow.

Simon Where is it?

Spencer Ipswich.

Simon No! No! I'm not going. I still owe my dad for the train to Swansea and there definitely wasn't a rehearsal there.

Archie No, not Swansea, Suzie's. You misheard.

Spencer This week it's definitely in Ipswich.

Simon Okay great. I'll see you there.

Spencer Yeah man. Wicked.

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Spencer and **Archie** laugh and walk off. **Spencer** smiles at **Katie** who smiles back. **Simon** follows.

Moon Oh my God, stop flirting.

Katie I wasn't.

Moon I'm joking. Flirt way harder.

Katie I'm really worried about him though. Mr Murray-White said they'll make him retake Year Nine if he fails his end-of-year.

Moon Oh my God you cannot go out with someone in the year below, that's gross.

Katie I really don't want to split up with him.

Moon But you'll be in Year Ten in the Science Lab and he'll be downstairs in the Geography room and long-distance relationships don't work.

Katie He's been working really hard so I'm sure he's going to pass anyway.

Moon But it's never gonna work if you've not even kissed with tongues. Oh my God I know how to make Spencer kiss you with tongues.

Katie I . . . I don't know —

Moon Don't worry I'll be like super subtle about it. TRUTH OR DARE!!

All Yeah!

Simon grabs **Spencer**.

Simon Spence. Can I talk to you?

Spencer Sure. By the way puberty called, said it's running very late for your appointment.

Simon Are you sure Moon likes me?

Spencer What?

Simon You told me in RE.

Spencer (*laughing*) Oh yeah, yeah, man, she told me yesterday on MSN. She's just too intimidated by your body.

Simon I don't know what to do though?

Spencer Lay it on the line and tell her how you feel as publicly as possible. Girls love that.

Simon What if you dare me to kiss Moon in truth or dare? That would be well romantic right?

Spencer Right.

Moon Guys, sit down! Katie's going first?

Katie Why don't we spin a bottle to see who goes first?

Moon . . . Fine.

Katie takes one of the bottles and spins. *The bottle lands on Moon.*

Moon Oh my God. Truth! No, dare! No, truth! No! I don't have any secrets, so dare! Oh my God, Katie, what are you going to make me do?

Katie Er, okay . . . um . . . um . . .

Moon OH MY GOD, KATIE, WHAT ARE GOING TO MAKE ME DO?

Katie Okay. I dare you to go out into the corridor and press your boobs against the glass!

Moon OMG! OMG! I can't do it! I'm totally gonna do it!

She runs outside and presses her (clothed) chest against the glass.

(Muffled by the glass.) Oh my God! Oh my God!

She comes back in.

Oh my God, you're like welcome.

Spencer That was epic.

Archie Spin it again.

Moon spins again. While everyone's watching the bottle she looks at **Katie** and mouths 'Graze his dick'. The bottle lands on **Simon**.

Simon Oh no. It's me . . . Oh, I can't believe it. Dare.

Spencer Okay, Simon, I dare you to —

Whispers to Katie.

Katie Put your dick in the hamster cage.

All Ahhh!

Simon No! No! Spence was gonna do one!

Spencer Nah, man, that's better. Do that. Definitely do that.

Simon What . . . just like . . . stick it in bare? I can't do that to Rodent Keating.

Spencer You got to.

Archie Yeah! Go on, Simon.

Moon We won't tell anyone.

Archie (clapping) Simon! Simon!

All Simon! Simon! Simon!

The others clap and chant as Simon nervously walks over to the hamster cage. He tentatively takes out his penis, opens the door on the cage and puts it inside.

All Wheey!

General vamp until:

Spencer Simon, you fiend.

Beat.

Simon Now what?

Spencer You've got to stay there for twenty minutes.

Simon But what if it — ARGH!

*The hamster bites **Simon** and he becomes stuck in the cage.*

Others ARGHH!

Simon manages to remove the hamster from himself, leaving it in the cage.

Simon It's not funny!

Archie Oh my God, I can't believe you took Rodent Keating's virginity.

Spencer Ha! Gay!

Spencer, Katie and Moon laugh.

Simon How do you like this, Spencer? If I'm gay, I dare you to kiss Archie.

Katie/Moon Ohhh!

Spencer I don't care.

Archie Nah, Spencer's not kissing me.

Simon Go on, you've gotta kiss, you've gotta kiss!

Archie I'm not kissing him.

Spencer Come on, man. Don't be gay, just kiss me.

Moon Arch, go ahead, it's fine.

Spencer moves over to **Archie**.

Archie No, I don't want to.

Spencer Don't be frigid.

Archie No! It's not normal!

An awkward beat.

Spencer Okay, I'll just do another one.

Moon I dare you to kiss –

Katie (in panic) Photocopy your bum.

All laugh.

Archie Yeah, in the staff room! Come on!

Spencer and Archie go.

Moon What are you doing? I was gonna dare him. Don't you want to do it?

Katie I do, I just, I don't know if I'm ready.

Moon Oh my God, you're so frigid. Archie touched my boobs already.

Katie Did he? Oh my God, I'm so happy for you.

Simon Ahh! Who's – who's – who's touching boobs? Why would anyone be touching boobs? No one should be touching anyone's boobs. Nige would not be happy if he found out someone was touching boobs.

Moon What, you're gonna tell my dad my boyfriend touched my boobs?

Simon If you want me to.

Moon No, I don't want you to.

Simon Sure. I won't tell your dad. I'm just, you know, keeping an eye on you. And them.

Points at Moon's boobs.

Moon Ew!

Katie You creepy goblin.

Simon I mean I'm not watching them, I'm just watching out for them. Like a security guard looking after some precious jewels.

Moon What?

Simon It's not like I'm looking at them. It's like if I look at your eyes they're there, you know? Like in my peripherals.

He holds up his hand blocking them from his view. Spencer and Archie come back.

Katie Oh my God, did you do it?

Archie He half did it. Ran out of ink.

Spencer It's a shame, it was just getting good.

He shows half a photocopy of his arse (the ink having run out after three-quarters of the first cheek).

Moon (*tapping Katie*) Then you have to do another one.

Simon I've got a dare for Spence.

Spencer Truth.

Archie Okay! Why did you really miss football practice last week?

Spencer Like I said, I was ill.

Archie Yeah, but you'd been fine all day. Come on. Truth. Where were you?

Spencer I was ill, man.

Archie No, you weren't.

Moon Truth! Truth! Truth!

Spencer I was . . . I was at Mr Turner's house.

Archie What? Why?!

Spencer He's been tutoring me.

Moon Even Simon doesn't have tutoring.

Simon Yeah! He's even worse than me!

Simon goes to fist-bump **Archie** but he ignores him.

Spencer I can't do the homework.

Archie Which subject?

Spencer All of them.

Archie But I do your homework.

Spencer Well, not any more.

Spencer looks at **Katie**.

Spencer Let's just go again.

*He spins and it lands on **Simon**.*

Spencer I've got a dare for Simon. Right, look at Moon.

Moon Gross.

Spencer (winks at **Moon**) Yeah, get like really close to her.

Moon Oh my God, yeah, get like super close to me.

Simon Yeah?

Spencer Yeah.

Simon leans in closer.

Moon Oh my God, Archie must be so jealous right now.

Archie is playing snake on his phone.

Archie Hmm, yeah.

Spencer Now, I dare you . . . to kiss . . .

Moon puckers her lips.

Spencer The fish in the Science Block.

Simon Oh come on!

*The others cheer as **Simon** trudges out of the room.*

Moon Oh my God!

Simon Don't make me kiss Scale Winton.

Moon leaves. Everyone follows **Moon** except for **Spencer**, who holds back. He takes out an exam paper and small booklet that was rolled up in the back of his trousers. He flattens them out on the desk and starts reading. **Katie** comes back in.

Katie What you doing?

Spencer quickly hides the papers.

Spencer Nothing. You still coming over tomorrow?

Katie Yeah.

Spencer Wanna get Blockbusters?

Katie Yeah okay. What's out?

Spencer *The Mummy Returns.*

He awkwardly lurches at her pretending to be a mummy.

Katie laughs and they kiss.

Spencer Was that okay?

Katie Yeah.

Spencer Can you taste the Polos?

Katie Yeah, really strongly.

Spencer I've been eating them like all day.

Katie How many have you had?

Spencer Just like a couple of packs.

Katie Aren't they a laxative?

Spencer (*not understanding*) Definitely. Tryna cover the taste of Discos from break time.

Katie Yeah, I can still taste them a bit.

Spencer Sorry. Cheese and onion really hangs on.

They kiss again and Katie tries to casually graze Spencer's dick but accidentally hits him hard in the balls.

Spencer Argh!

Katie Oh my God, I'm so sorry!

Spencer What are you doing?

Katie Moon told me to.

Spencer Hit me in the balls?

Katie No, graze your dick.

Spencer Graze my dick?!

Katie She said boys like that.

Spencer I didn't like that at all.

Katie I'm so sorry!

Spencer It's okay, it doesn't hurt.

Katie Really?

Spencer No man. It canes.

Katie I'm so sorry, I'm such an idiot. I was just trying to . . . to . . . I'm no good at this.

Embarrassed, Katie walks over to the desk. Spencer awkwardly takes a piece of folded paper out of his pocket.

Spencer It's alright. Listen, um . . . I wrote you something – Katie?

Katie (*seeing the exam paper on the desk*) What's this?

Spencer *puts down his folded paper.*

Spencer Oh that's . . . um, that's . . .

Katie Your end-of-year.

Spencer Um, yeah.

Katie Where did you find this?

Spencer In the staff room.

Katie Are these the answers?

Silence.

Spencer, why?

Spencer I don't know, it was just there and I thought I'd take it. I didn't plan to.

Katie You don't need to change your paper. All that revision we did. You might have passed.

Spencer Come on.

Katie What?

Spencer Well, it's easy for you isn't it? Like . . . academia. I'm not smart like you.

Katie Yes, you are.

Spencer No, I'm not. I thought Asia was in Africa.

Katie But Spence, that doesn't mean you can cheat.

Spencer Well, how else am I supposed to pass?

Katie Do you know how hard I've worked for the end-of-years? If you just copy out the answers how's that fair?

Spencer You can cheat too.

She looks at him.

Spencer Alright, but like if I fail and get held back . . . are you still gonna want go out with me?

Katie I don't want to go out with you if you're a cheat. Then you're just like my dad.

Spencer gives **Katie** his paper. **Archie** re-enters.

Archie That fish was pissed off! What's going on?

Spencer Nothing.

Archie Is that your end-of-year?!

Spencer No.

Archie Have they been marked?

Spencer Not yet.

Archie Oh my God that's amazing, we can redo your paper!

Spencer Nah. I don't want to.

Archie Why? Spence, change your answers and you won't get held back.

Spencer What if I've passed?

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Archie Come on. Look, it doesn't matter, I'm putting it back in the staff room.

Moon and Simon enter.

Moon What's happening? What's the gossip? You have to tell me right now.

Spencer Nothing.

Archie Spencer's cheating on his end-of-years.

Katie No he's not!

Moon YES, CHANGE YOUR GRADE SO YOU DON'T FAIL!

Spencer I might have passed!

Moon Come on.

Spencer looks at Katie.

Spencer I'm not changing it.

Archie Spence, what is going on with you? You're like a completely different person lately.

Simon Yeah, where's our bro?

Archie/Spencer Shut up, Simon.

Spencer Just leave it. I'm not cheating.

He picks up his folded paper. Archie notices and grabs it out of his hand.

Archie What's this?

Spencer Oi, give it!

He chases Archie, who darts around desks, easily escaping him.

Archie Are these the new lyrics for Trigonometry Blues?

Spencer No, it's a new song.

Archie Oh, new song! Well, if it's a new song then we all better hear it.

Moon/Katie/Simon Yeah!

During the above, Spencer attempts numerous times to get the paper back from Archie.

Archie You want it?

Spencer Archie, give it back.

Archie puts it behind his back and **Simon** intercepts it.

Spencer Simon, you chode.

Moon Simon, give it to me.

Simon Yes, Moon.

Simon runs across the room to give the paper to Moon. As he does so, Spencer grabs Simon's backpack and Simon wriggles himself free. Spencer attempts to get the paper off Moon, who is standing on a table.

Moon (while repeatedly hitting **Spencer**) Can't hit a girl back. Can't a hit a girl back. Can't hit a girl back.

Moon passes the paper to **Archie**, who is standing on the teacher's desk with the guitar.

Moon/Katie/Simon Play it! Play it! Play it!

Spencer Arch, give it back.

Archie If you want it, come and get it.

Spencer Fine. I will.

Archie (jumping off the desk) See you later. Come on, Spencer, let's have a listen.

Moon/Katie/Simon PLAY IT! PLAY IT! PLAY IT!

Spencer is clearly embarrassed, but the others join in the game and he gives up protesting. **Archie** begins performing **Spencer**'s song.

Archie (*sings*)

I have a secret. A secret in my heart.
Thursdays are my favourite days,
Sitting next to you in Art.

Spencer That's not even how you sing it.

Archie How do you sing it? (*Sings.*) 'Sitting next to you in Art.' (*Speaks.*) It doesn't matter.

(*Sings.*) Wednesdays were the best days,
For being near to you
Till I got moved down in Science
And now I'm in Group Two.

Spencer attempts again to get the paper off **Archie**.

Spencer Arch, come on.

Archie (*sings*)

I'm so happy to be more than your matey
I'm so happy when we go on a datey
Hold my hand because I love you K . . . Ka . . .

Cool. Cool song, Spence.

Archie hands it back to **Spencer** and puts down the guitar, clearly hurt.

Katie goes over to **Spencer** and holds his hand. **Simon** picks up the guitar and sings to the tune of Vengaboys' 'Boom Boom Boom Boom'.

Simon

Moon Moon Moon Moon!
I want you in my room.
We'll spend the night together
Because you're in my room.

Moon Shut up, Simon! Archie, don't you even care that I keep getting hit on by this, like, crab. You're supposed to be my boyfriend.

Simon *dejectedly puts the guitar down.*

Archie No I don't care. Really.

Moon What?

Archie Nothing.

Moon What do you mean, you don't care?

Archie I just . . . I just don't care.

Moon OH. MY. GOD. You're a worse boyfriend than Sean Munnery and he kept trying to feed me acorns. You are so dumped.

Simon Thank you, Vengaboys.

Archie *(almost in tears)* Whatever, I don't even like you anyway.

He starts to storm off.

Spencer *(calling after him)* Arch.

Archie Just . . . leave me alone.

He tries to slam the door behind him but it is on a closer so will only close very slowly.

SLAM!

He runs off.

Moon Oh my God. That was bang out of order!

Katie Oh Moon, I'm so sorry. You'll find someone else.

Moon I know. I was two-timing him with Richard Taylor anyway. I just can't believe I let him touch my boobs.

Simon Moon, I need to speak to you publicly.

Spencer *(coughs)* Don't do it.

Simon Moon, this might come as a shock but I really . . . I really like you.

Spencer (coughs) Leave it, you bellend.

Simon I know you're scared of my body. But that's okay, I am too.

Spencer Aw, mate.

Moon OMG. Look, Simon. I don't like, like you like that. You know? I like you as like a friend.

Simon But maybe I can take that and build on it?

Moon No, because it's not like that, like, that's not how liking someone, like, works. You either like them like, like like them or you just like don't like them like that. You just like, like them. Do you understand?

Beat.

Simon No.

Moon I see you just as a friend.

Simon Yeah, but that's nearly a boyfriend.

Moon Yeah, but I see you like a girlfriend –

Simon looks destroyed.

Moon (trying to be nice but not sure how) – with a penis, but not like a sex penis. Like a medical penis.

Simon You see me like a girlfriend with a medical penis?

Moon Yeah.

Simon But Spencer said you liked me.

Everyone looks at Spencer.

Spencer goes to speak but instead runs out the door. **Katie** awkwardly shuffles to the door and follows him out, shrugging apologetically.

Simon collapses, weeping. An awkward silence. **Moon** offers **Simon** a Starburst.

Moon You want an Opal Fruit?

Simon takes one. **Moon** sits next to him and opens the rest of the packet.

Moon Come on, Simon. I like you. I just don't like your personality.

Simon I can change my personality.

Moon No, you shouldn't change yourself. I'll find someone like me – (*Indicates with her hands.*) And you'll find someone like you. (*Holds her hands lower down.*)

Simon *sobs loudly.*

Moon Look I'm not . . . I'm not saying never.

Simon You're not?

Moon I mean, who knows? Maybe one day when we're older.

Simon When we're like twenty.

Moon No, when we're really old, like thirty. When I need someone who's like always there for me.

Simon Okay.

Moon Look, we're friends, Simon, but you really must stop being friends with me in front of other people.

Simon Yes, Moon.

Katie and **Spencer** come back in.

Spencer Can't find him anywhere.

Moon I don't even care what Archie does, he's like dead to me now. Do you guys want to come to the year-above's party?

Katie Um.

Moon Katie, I need you right now! I'm fragile!

Katie Yeah, okay. You coming, Spence?

Spencer (*hesitates, looking at the door*) Nah. I should stay.

Katie Yeah, look after Archie.

Spencer I'll catch you up.

Moon and **Katie** turn to leave.

Simon Moon, do I come?

Moon What have we just spoken about, Simon?

Simon Yes, Moon. I'll tell Nige you'll be home late.

Moon Yeah, whatever.

She and Katie climb out of the window. Spencer heads back into the corridor.

Archie comes back in through the other door, holding a new exam paper. He picks up Spencer's old paper and takes out a pen from the desk and starts copying Spencer's name from one paper to the other.

Spencer (*calls from off*) Arch?

Archie quickly hides the original paper behind the grate, replacing the grates just as Spencer enters.

Spencer There you are. Are you alright?

Archie Yeah, fine. I was just . . . Just gonna put your paper back in the staff room.

Spencer Oh, thanks man.

Archie Yeah. So uh . . . you and Katie?

Spencer Yeah. It's pretty serious, we've been together like a whole month. Katie's so smart. She should probably be with someone like you.

Archie Nah.

Spencer Don't worry about Moon. You're gonna find someone you really like.

Archie Yeah. I'm not sure I will.

Spencer Of course you will.

Archie Anyway, see you tomorrow.

Spencer Tomorrow?

Archie Band practice.

Spencer Yeah, sorry, I can't. Katie's coming round.

Archie Oh. No worries.

Spencer Here, I should take that back.

Archie No, it's fine, I'll do it. You go catch up with Katie.

Spencer Cool. Thanks, Arch.

He climbs out of the window.

Archie Got your back.

He takes out his pen and starts filling in the exam paper as the lights come down.

Interval.

Act Three

The same classroom. Autumn 2019.

Lights up to reveal our classroom – still clearly the same room but the walls have faded and the furniture has changed to more modern equivalents. It's early evening. A large banner hanging over the board reads WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 2004. A buffet table has been set up stage left. Distant music can be heard coming down the hall from the main party downstairs.

Spencer enters, now thirty-one, in beige chinos and a suede jacket over a white band T-shirt.

The memories of this room hit him as he walks in . . . they're not great. He looks around for a bit, noticing what's changed. He goes over to a new cage in the corner. He wiggles his finger at the hamster inside and the whole cage lurches to one side as the hamster runs away from him, having picked up an instinctive bad feeling.

He leans on the teacher's desk and accidentally presses a button on the remote for the smartboard projector which springs to life.

Voice It's time to learn about the reproductive cycle of the salmon!

*He frantically turns it off. **Archie** comes in, wearing a well-tailored suit.*

Archie Spence!

Spencer Archie! Good to see you, man.

Archie Good to see you! Hey!

He holds out his hand and the two begin their secret handshake, neither really remembers it and it peters out.

Archie Good one.

Spencer Yeah, how long's it been? Four . . . five years?

Archie Four years, eight months . . . thirteen days.

Spencer Wow, that's – good memory.

Archie It was my wedding.

Spencer Counting the days, are you?

He laughs. Archie laughs a little too much.

Spencer When was it before that? The funeral?

Archie Yeah, poor Mrs Murray-White. I didn't get a chance to speak to you but I saw you there, you were having one of those cheese-and-pineapple, cocktail-stick things. (*Pause.*) Everyone's so different now.

Spencer *bites into a sandwich and spills jam down his front. He tries to wipe it away, making a stain.*

Spencer Yeah, we've all really changed. What are you up to these days? Still a prosecutor?

Archie Yep. Yep.

Spencer Enjoying it?

Archie Yeah. Yeah.

He notices Spencer's T-shirt.

Archie Oh, are you still playing the . . .

He plays some air guitar.

Spencer Keyboard, yeah.

Archie Not with the . . . ?

Spencer Angry Lobsters? Big time. Big time. After seven attempts we're finally going to Glastonbury.

Archie Amazing. Which stage are you playing?

Spencer Oh no, we're not playing. We're just going, but Mr Murray-White said we could do a song after the alumni awards if we want.

Archie Oh, great.

Spencer You, uh, enjoying the awards?

Archie Yeah, James Plant just won Most Kids.

Spencer How many?

Archie Seven.

Spencer Was he pleased?

Archie He's not here. Couldn't get a babysitter. Are you still doing that night school you mentioned a few years back?

Spencer Nah, chucked it in in the end. Not my vibe.

Archie I'm sure it could be.

Spencer Nah, school's never been my thing.

Archie Where are you working now?

Spencer Pet shop. Little, local . . . just round the corner, used to be the Blockbusters.

Archie Great.

Spencer Did you do anything nice over the summer?

Archie Yes, we went to Kenya.

Spencer Wow. I'd love to go to Asia.

Archie Yeah. It's certainly beautiful. It's good to see you, I'm so glad you came.

Spencer Yeah, me too. I almost didn't, to be honest.

Archie Why?

Spencer Well, technically it's not my reunion. I didn't know if I'd be a bit – you know.

Archie Don't be silly, we're all friends, no one cares if you ended up in the year below.

Silence.

Spencer How's your dad?

Archie I don't know.

Long silence.

You look good –

Paul enters.

Paul Hey! Look who it is! It's these guys! How the bloody hell are you two legends doing?

Archie Haha! It's you!

Paul embraces them both deeply.

Paul It's me . . . Paul!

Spencer Paul!

Paul Haha! The King of Bantchester himself! Squire!

Laughing, Paul bows to Archie and Spencer.

Spencer Squire.

Bows.

Archie How are you?

Paul I'm very well, thank you. I bet you thought I wouldn't be able to make it!

Archie Yeah.

Paul Obviously it's been epic to get here.

Spencer Of course.

Paul You two look great.

Archie You're looking very well too.

Spencer Yeah, really well.

Paul So good to see you both.

Spencer Good to see you too.

Paul Let's get this booze-cruiser back on the ocean blue.

He gives a couple of pulls on an imaginary cord and makes ship horn noises.

Leaving harbour! See you boys in a bit.

54 Groan Ups

They all laugh happily.

Paul Wheyy! LADIES!

Archie and **Spencer** copy him, laughing and making lad noises.

Archie/Spencer Wheyyy!

Paul exits laughing

Archie Who was that?

Spencer I've no idea. I don't remember him at all. What was this?

He repeats the move.

Archie I could not tell you.

Spencer Yeah.

Archie I don't really know what it means.

Spencer I guess it means he . . . likes . . .

Archie Ladies.

Spencer Yeah.

Paul comes back.

Paul Wheeyy!

Spencer and **Archie** make noises back, pointing and laughing. **Paul** goes and they stop.

Paul Classic.

Spencer I've literally not got a clue.

Archie To be honest, I don't remember half the people in there.

Katie enters.

Katie Arch, there you are.

She kisses Archie.

Katie I've just spoken to the sitter, she's fine until ten, but she says Molly's got a tummy ache.

Archie Oh, well, we won't stay long.

She sees Spencer.

Katie Hi, Spencer. How are you? You look brilliant.

Spencer You're very kind, I'm covered in jam, but thanks.

Archie laughs. **Katie** laughs too.

Katie You're so funny.

Archie So funny.

Katie So good to see you.

She strokes Spencer's chest.

Archie It really is.

He strokes Spencer too.

Simon enters in a suit that was doubtlessly very expensive, but which he somehow manages to look cheap.

Simon Should've guessed I'd find you lot back in here.

Others Simon!

Katie How are you?

Simon Very well, thank you. Life's a gift.

He assumes an affected casual pose.

Spencer (genuinely) You look great. I almost didn't recognise you without those train tracks!

Simon Well, I had those removed obviously. My teeth are very straight now.

He smiles for everyone.

Spencer (ironically) Got any pubes yet?

Katie, Archie and Spencer laugh.

Simon Yes.

Spencer No, of course.

Simon Sorry I'm a bit late. My girlfriend took hours to get ready.

Katie Girlfriend?

Simon Yes. I'll just get her.

Archie Great.

Simon goes outside.

Spencer So, Katie, how was Kenya?

Katie It was incredible.

Simon reappears in the doorway with **Chemise** – late twenties, tall and overdressed for the event. He closes the door. The others are chatting and don't notice her.

Archie The landscape is just amazing.

Spencer Is it?

Katie And we went on safari, we saw elephants, lions, so many animals.

Spencer Wow.

Visibly irritated, Simon tries to get their attention.

Simon Ah. Hey guys, this is my girlfriend. This is Chemise.

Katie/Archie/Spencer Hi!

Chemise Hiya. I'm so glad I could find time in my busy modelling schedule to be here tonight.

Katie Lovely to meet you.

Archie Sorry, your name is Chemise?

Chemise Yeah.

Simon Like a French blouse.

Archie Chemise is shirt isn't it?

Simon Alright, Jean Claude Van Damme.

A brief awkward pause.

Katie So you're French?

Chemise Aye.

Chemise realises she's perhaps now in trouble.

Spencer Where did you meet?

Simon/Chemise Rome/Paris.

Simon It was in Paris . . . but in a restaurant in Rome . . .

Chemise Street.

Katie Oh, Rue de Rome? Which restaurant?

Simon Le Jambon Piscine.

Pause.

Archie The ham swimming pool?

Simon Yeah.

Chemise It was amazing. It's the first time I'd been to France.

Katie So how have things been going with you, Simon?
Keeping busy?

Simon Busy isn't the word.

Spencer Not busy?

Simon No. I'm very busy.

Archie What do you do now?

Simon Sales.

Katie Oh, what do you sell?

Simon Cakes.

Spencer What kind?

Simon Well, urinal mostly –

Katie Urinal cakes?!

Spencer You run a papisserie.

Archie and Katie laugh a little too much.

Simon What are you up to, Spence? Still doing your band?

Spencer Yeah.

Simon Wish I could doss around like, that but I'm on fifty grand a year so . . . one-nil, Spencer. One-nil. Where's that other girl? What was her name?

Chemise Moon, you said.

Simon Ah! Yeah, yeah, Moon.

Katie You forgot her name? You practically worshipped her.

Simon (*laughing falsely*) I don't remember that. It's difficult to remember when you have as many friends as I have. Seven hundred on Facebook, five hundred on Twitter. Very little overlap as well, so that's almost twelve hundred friends across both platforms.

Moon appears at the window and enters.

Moon (*from outside*) Oh my God! (*Enters.*) Here you all are!

Others Moon!

Moon gives them all hugs.

Simon Moon. Simon Brown.

Moon I know, you haven't changed a bit.

Simon I have changed. This is my girlfriend Chemise.

Moon Nice to meet you.

Chemise I'm so glad I could find time in my busy modelling schedule to be here tonight.

Moon I thought you guys had stood me up.

Archie Sorry, we're all up here hiding from the alumni awards.

Moon I know, I had to get out of there, Richard Taylor just won Hottest Torso.

Spencer (*sighs*) Overlooked again.

Archie and Katie laugh loudly at **Spencer**'s joke.

Archie/Katie No but you do look great./No, you look amazing.

Simon I also work out.

Pause.

Moon and Archie walk over to the buffet.

Archie Cupcake?

Simon and Chemise follow.

Moon I'm actually on an inner-peace tonic diet.

Simon What's that?

Moon I'll show you.

She picks up a cupcake.

Moon (*shouts*) NO!

She puts the cake back down. Spencer and Katie are left alone.

Spencer Wassup, Katie?

Katie Oop wassup, Spence?

They chuckle awkwardly. Beat.

I wasn't sure you'd be coming actually.

Spencer Me neither.

Katie I'm glad you did.

Beat.

Spencer Want to play a game?

Katie Yes!

Spencer Umm . . . okay. Reunion drinking game. We have to drink every time we hear someone tell a lie.

Katie (*laughs*) I don't know if I want to black out tonight.

Moon comes back over.

Moon What are you two talking about?

Katie We were just saying how much fun this is.

Spencer Mmm-hmm.

He takes a drink.

Katie smiles. **Archie**, **Simon** and **Chemise** rejoin with sandwiches. **Simon** holds a pack of ten urinal cakes.

Simon . . . And not only that, they're guaranteed to retain fragrance for seventy-two hours, giving you peace of mind.

Archie Yes. It's not the quality I'm concerned about. We just don't have a urinal in our house.

Simon puts the urinal cakes down on the table with the sandwiches etc.

Simon (*sighs*) Good memories here.

Spencer and **Katie** drink.

Katie Like the time we erased your name from the register and it took a whole year for the teacher to realise you had just been sat there!

Simon I don't remember that.

Katie It's so weird being back. It feels like it was only yesterday, you know?

Chemise Yeah, I know, it's weird isn't it?

Katie But you didn't go here?

Chemise Oh yeah.

Beat.

Moon Oh my God – selfie!

She takes a takes a photo of herself.

Simon I invented that.

Katie You look so amazing, Moon!

Moon Thanks babes. I don't feel it. Mark and I are having such a nightmare opening this restaurant. It's like my idea and it's so exciting but such hard work.

Simon Great . . . Who's Mark?

Moon My husband.

Simon You're married?

Moon Yep.

Katie What is it, six months now?

Moon Nearly.

Archie Amazing!

Spencer Congrats.

Simon Chemise and I are married.

Archie Great.

Chemise Aye, yeah.

Simon Happily.

Archie Of course.

Simon Are you married, Spencer?

Spencer No.

Simon Oh. Two-nil, Spencer, two-nil.

Spencer Where did you get married?

Simon Church.

Spencer (*lisping*) Two-one.

Chemise So where did you and Mark meet?

Moon At a Buddhist retreat in Tibet. We were the only two people with Tinder on the mountain.

Chemise Aww, lovely. And your name's Moon?

Moon Yeah.

Chemise That's interesting. Where's that from?

Moon The Moon.

Chemise Oh. I just found out mine means shirt.

Katie How is married life?

Moon Amazing, obvs, but Mark's struggling to adapt to me running the restaurant.

Katie Oh, I'm sorry.

Moon I think he's just a bit emasculated because I've got this glamorous career. He just keeps poking holes in all of it. He keeps asking about like the license and the insurance and a chef and suppliers and he's like obsessed with the cost of like 'the premises'. It's just so unimportant, we don't even have a premises.

Katie You don't have a premises?

Moon No.

Katie But I thought you were opening a restaurant?

Moon I am.

Katie But you don't have a licence?

Moon No.

Katie Or a chef?

Moon No.

Katie Or a restaurant?

Moon Oh my God, you sound just like Mark!

Moon Anyway, how's your marriage?

Archie It's so great, great to be settled down.

Katie *drinks.*

Moon Oh yeah, that's good. Katie, be careful I don't steal him back!

They all laugh.

No, but really it's great you guys are so happy together. I mean you don't want to end up all on your own like Spencer. He's let himself go.

Moon I can't believe Five Angry Lobsters are still a thing.

Simon I can't believe they ever were a thing.

Katie He's laughing a lot but he's not happy.

Archie He's working.

Katie In a pet shop.

Archie What's wrong with that?

Katie Come on, Arch. It's just so sad that we've all moved away and he's just stuck here.

Moon Why did he even come? He's from the year below.

Archie I just feel bad for not keeping in touch.

Moon It's not our fault he got held back.

Katie That must have affected him though.

Archie I don't think it did. That was years ago.

Moon He should read the self-help book I read, *Believe: There's Nothing To It*. It's by Gwyneth Paltrow. It's amazing, I like totally wouldn't have the restaurant without it.

Katie Poor Spence. He must be so disappointed with . . . with . . . you know . . . how it's all worked out.

64 Groan Ups

Simon He hides it well but ultimately he's just wearing such a mask.

He smiles, all mask.

Archie Shall we get back to the awards?

Moon Totes, I can't believe we're missing them. Hashtag FOMO!

Moon and **Archie** exit to the main hall. **Katie** joins **Spencer** at the buffet.

Chemise So we're married now?

Simon I said you'd have to go with the flow at the audition.

Chemise It just really isn't what my agent said it would be. She said it was immersive theatre. This is just real life.

Simon Well you can't get more immersive than that, can you? Have you learnt the speech?

Chemise Yeah. You don't think it's a bit much?

Simon No, it's subtle. Just get out there, spread the word. Come on! Hustle, hustle, hustle.

Chemise exits. **Simon** notices **Spencer** and **Katie** looking over.

Simon (chuckles to himself) I'm so in love.

He exits.

Spencer But with who?

Katie What do you mean?

Spencer He still totally likes Moon.

Katie No! That's nuts, how can you carry a torch for someone for all these years?

Spencer Yeah . . . crazy.

He takes a drink.

Katie You look well. Have you been keeping in shape?

Spencer No. No. But you look. Wow. I mean –

He accidentally leans on the projector remote and it turns on again.

Voice The male is aroused. He voids his sperm sac –

Spencer *desperately turns it off again.*

Spencer Ahem. So. So, how's London life?

Katie Yeah. Good. Mortgage is crippling but you know. The civil service is treating me well.

Spencer Do you have fun?

Katie I don't know if I really have time to have fun.

Spencer It could be worse, you could be married to the manager of a deeply unprofitable pet shop.

Katie *(laughs)* Oh God, can you imagine what it would have been like if we'd stayed together?

Spencer Yeah . . . You'd have been a roadie for the Angry Lobsters.

Katie Excuse me, I would have been the manager.

Spencer That's true.

Katie Oh, it would have been a nightmare. Our kids would have been terrors!

Spencer Would we have had kids?

Katie Oh yeah, big family.

Spencer They'd have been weird kids, though. They'd get ten out of ten in all their spelling tests but then they'd come home and take a shit in the corridor.

Katie You could have taught them to play keyboard.

Spencer Yeah! Make up the numbers in the band.

Katie Oh God, imagine the noise!

Spencer Exactly. The house would be chaos.

Katie Fun though.

Spencer Yeah. Lot of laughter. You'd never get any work done.

Katie Nightmare.

Spencer Nightmare.

Katie I suppose it might have been nice to work less.

Spencer *hesitates briefly.*

Katie But I'm so glad it didn't turn out like that.

Spencer Me too. What a horrible life that would have been.

They both drink. They kiss, moving towards the table with the hamster, Katie moves her arm and knocks the hamster cage onto the floor. It falls open.

Spencer/Katie Oh my God./Oh shit!

Spencer Where did it go?

Katie It's okay! It's okay! He's just there. Grab him.

Spencer I got him.

He goes to grab the hamster but it darts across the room and under another cupboard.

Spencer/Katie No! No!

Spencer Bollocks. That kiss was amazing.

Katie I know, but we cannot lose – (*Reads.*) Hamye West.

Spencer I know.

The hamster runs from the cupboard back across the room.

There it is!

Katie I'll get him!

The hamster runs across again, under the teacher's desk.

No!

Spencer dives on the floor to catch the hamster but lands on top of it.

Spencer Ohh . . . Ohh no . . . I flopped it.

Katie What? Oh God. What do we do?

Silence. **Chemise** appears in the doorway and stands there.

Chemise When I first met Simon I knew he was the one for me. It wasn't just his toned body or his towering intellect. It was his raw, animal magnetism. His sporting prowess and his charitable work is only surpassed by his success in business but this too pales in comparison to his hot, hot sexual power.

She exits.

Katie What do we do?

Spencer I don't know.

Katie You work in a pet shop.

Spencer This doesn't happen in pet shops!

Katie We just need to get rid of it!

She throws the hamster at the window and it bounces off the glass.

We need to hide it!

Spencer The hideaway! Hide it behind that grate. I'll go to the shop and get a new one.

Katie Okay, great.

Spencer goes to leave but **Paul** arrives.

Paul Hey! There she is –

Spencer Paul! Wheey!

*He grabs **Paul** and embraces him, turning him away from **Katie**, who hides the dead hamster in the tissue box (on the teacher's desk). **Katie** gives **Spencer** the thumbs-up and he spins **Paul** back round.*

Spencer It's Paul. Katie, you remember Paul.

Katie . . . Yeah! Paul, how are you?

Paul Life and soul. Life and soul. The smiles just keep coming!

Spencer Don't you ever get sad?

Paul (*laughing*) Yeah.

Spencer Sorry, must run.

He runs off.

Paul How are you?

Katie Good. Good.

Paul You do remember me, don't you?

Katie Yeah. Yeah, of course. You're Paul.

Paul Right, because I get the feeling quite a lot of people here seem to have forgotten a lot about me. They don't remember the jokes. The characters. You must remember Walrus Paulrus.

He pulls a walrus face.

'Ello!

He becomes 'Walrus Paulrus', dragging his body around the room like a walrus.

Katie Yeah. How could anyone forget that?

Paul You're right, this will jog their memories.

Paul exits as 'Walrus Paulrus' (*yelping like a walrus etc*). **Katie** quickly takes the tissue box (still with the hamster in it) over to the grate and puts it on the table with the sandwiches etc. She kneels down and prises the grate open. Crammed inside it is an old, dusty exam paper which she takes out. She is about to stow the hamster away but is distracted by **Spencer's** name on the paper. She starts to look through it when **Moon** returns, on the phone. She stands by the table next to the tissue box.

Moon Oh my God, Mark just sign for it and let the delivery man go . . . Yes, we will need a red carpet . . . Er, I don't know, Mark, perhaps for the grand opening . . . Yes . . . Yes . . . Oh, *putain vous*, Mark!

Welling up, Moon takes a tissue and dabs her eyes. She then takes the tissue box and puts it back on the teacher's desk.

Moon Mark! Mark. Mark. Mark. Mark! Mark. Mark. Mark! Okay, if you don't believe in me and my dreams then maybe Daddy's right, maybe we shouldn't be together!

She hangs up and sits down on the teacher's desk, sighing heavily. Katie stays quiet. Moon sighs again, fanning her face with her hand, really wanting Katie to ask what's wrong. Silence. Katie eventually caves.

Katie You okay?

Moon Don't ask! I just really don't want to talk about it.

Katie That's fine.

Moon Mark is just being totally unsupportive. Everyone thinks I'm not even trying and I'm working so hard I'm Instagramming like all day.

She goes to the buffet table and picks up another cupcake.

NO!

She puts the cupcake back down.

The book says it won't happen unless you really believe in it, so I'm just like believing in a restaurant all the time and do you have any idea how tiring it is to like believe in a restaurant twenty-four hours a day? And I'm believing so hard, like . . . Nnnn!

She believes really hard.

Like . . . Nnnn! I can like see the red carpet. And Mark just so clearly doesn't believe in the restaurant. You believe in the restaurant, don't you?

Katie I believe that you believe in the restaurant.

Moon Yeah, you're right, I should leave him. Oh my God!

70 Groan Ups

Moon starts crying. She takes the tissue box and moves to the teacher's desk, as she does she unknowingly takes the dead hamster out and blows her nose on it, throwing it on the chair afterwards. **Simon** comes in pretending to be on the phone.

Simon Yes, that seems like a good business deal where I would profit.

He pretends to hang up.

Are my ears burning?

Katie No.

Simon What's wrong?

Moon (welling up) Me and Mark are breaking up.

Simon (clearly delighted) Ohh, that's a shame . . .

Moon What is going on?! I just keep having these intense jealous relationships, why can't I find someone who's always there for me?

Simon Oh, you can.

He gives Moon a cuddle.

Moon Thanks, Simon.

Simon It's okay, it's okay. I'm here for you. I know exactly what you're going through.

Moon Hardly, you and Chemise seem so happy together.

Katie Yeah.

Simon Yeah, no, that's the thing, we seem very happy but . . . the spark's not there. I mean my spark is there, but her spark, it's gone.

Chemise appears at the door.

Chemise When I first met Simon I knew he was the one for me —

Simon No!

He closes the door on Chemise.

Simon We've drifted apart.

Chemise appears at the window in the door.

Chemise (off) IT WASN'T JUST HIS TONED BODY –

Simon pulls the blind down over **Chemise**.

Chemise (louder) OR HIS TOWERING INTELLECT –

Simon NOT NOW! Excuse me, I need to complete a business transaction.

He exits.

Moon Anyway, enough about me, tell me about you. I want to know everything.

Katie Well there is actually something I'd kind of like to get off my chest.

Moon Oh, I know. It's just like so hard to find people who really listen. It's just like me and Mark the other week, I was talking and he just wasn't listening.

Katie Yeah. Marriage is tricky . . . Actually me and Archie have –

Moon Tell me about it! That's just like me and Mark. We've been together for like six months now. Long-term relationships just don't work.

Katie It's okay. You'll find someone else.

Moon I know. I'm two-timing him with Richard Taylor anyway, but it's just like such a juggling act.

Katie I've actually got a similar problem. I just . . . kissed . . . Spencer.

Moon WHAT! OH MY GOD! HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?!

Katie You just said you're cheating on your husband with Richard Taylor!

Moon Yeah, that's just hand-jobs! We don't kiss!

Katie Please don't tell anyone.

Moon Oh my God, I would never tell anyone.

Katie Seriously, this is my marriage.

Moon Don't worry I'm good with secrets. You know you and Spence were so cute together, you never should have broken up.

Katie You told me to break up with him!

Moon (*laughs*) Oh my God, yeah, I was such a bitch back then. Thank God I've changed.

Her phone rings.

(*With anger.*) WHAT IS IT NOW, MARK? Ugh, I'm going to kill you!

She exits the other way. Archie comes in.

Archie Hey, have you seen Spencer?

Katie No. Absolutely not. No. No. Forget Spencer. Let's talk about us. You know what I've been thinking, actually we should take some time for our marriage. We should go on holiday.

Archie We've just been on holiday.

Katie But that was with Molly and your mother. We should do a romantic trip, just the two of us.

Archie I'm so busy with work.

Katie Yeah. But we always have such fun when we go away. So, let's be spontaneous. We could get the first flight out of here tomorrow. My dad can take Molly.

Archie No he can't. Pam kicked him out again. He's back in the Travelodge.

Katie Then Mum can.

Archie Let me think about it.

Katie Okay. I love you.

Archie What's that?

Katie Nothing. Just an old exam paper I found.

She exits. Archie thinks for a moment, then goes to follow, puzzled.

Simon and Chemise enter, not seeing Archie upstage left.

Simon Okay, let's go through it.

Chemise OH SIMON! Simon, I can't do this any more!

Archie walks back down towards **Chemise** and **Simon**, watching them.

Simon Why? What's wrong?

Chemise You're too much for me, you're too much for me in bed. I have to leave you.

Simon Chemise, please!

Chemise I just feel inadequate next to you . . .

Simon Dwarfed by your accomplishments.

Chemise – dwarfed by your accomplishments. You should be with another entrepreneur.

Simon But where will you go?

Chemise I don't know.

Simon hands **Chemise** a set of car keys.

Simon Here, take my Bentley. I can buy another one.

Chemise Thank you, Simon. I shall miss you and your house which has a pool.

Simon Goodbye, Chemise.

Chemise . . . Farewell!

She runs out dramatically.

74 Groan Ups

Simon Nice.

Archie moves into the room.

Simon Naahhh!!!

Archie Simon. Wow. What happened there? That was weird.

Simon Um. Yeah.

Archie Did she just leave you?

Simon Yeah. She did. I was just too much for her in bed, and now she's gone forever.

Chemise enters.

Chemise (not noticing **Archie**) Was that okay, pet?

Simon Naaahhh!

He closes the door on Chemise.

Simon Excuse me, I need to complete a business transaction.

He walks to the door while Archie stands, confused. He notices the missing grate and his eyes widen in horror. He chases after Katie.

Archie Katie?!

Simon lets **Chemise** back in.

Chemise How was that?

Simon Pretty good. Archie bought it.

Chemise Well, yeah. You know a reviewer once said I was unbelievable as any character.

Simon Just uh, speak a bit more naturally. You're stressing the wrong words. And make 'Farewell' sadder.

Chemise Got it.

Simon Wait here, I'll find Moon. (*As he exits.*) Moon!

He goes.

Chemise is left alone. She strides around the room pretending to be a teacher.

Chemise Sit up straight. Tuck your shirt in. Get that glue stick out of your mouth, you little minger. I could totally play a teacher.

Content, she sits down heavily on the chair with the dead hamster on it and jumps up.

Argh!

She sees the hamster on the chair and picks it up.

Oh shite!

She puts the hamster on the teacher's desk. She opens the window. The window closes as she moves back to the desk to collect the hamster, which she throws at the now-closed window. The hamster bounces off the window. She picks it up.

*As she moves towards the hamster cage, **Spencer** enters with a cardboard pet carrier and she is caught in no man's land.*

Spencer opens the pet carrier and takes out a live hamster. **Chemise** watches.

Archie enters. **Chemise** is hidden behind the door. **Spencer** quickly fumbles the hamster back into the carrier, sits on a school desk and hides it behind his back.

Archie Spence.

Spencer Archie.

*As **Archie** approaches, **Spencer** swivels on the desk keeping the pet carrier out of view.*

Archie Have you seen Katie?

Spencer No. Absolutely not. No.

Archie Good. Listen, I've been meaning to talk to you. I'm sorry we've lost touch.

Spencer Don't worry, it's fine.

Archie I've just been a little down lately.

He sits. Spencer shoves the pet carrier out of view again. The hamster squeaks. He tries to cover it by doing a high-pitched laugh.

Spencer Sorry, that's not funny at all.

Chemise creeps round from the door and switches the dead hamster for the live one, putting the live one in the cage.

Archie I know I haven't been the best at responding to emails and I've been a little distant since school, but I promise we will spend more time together.

Spencer Good.

Archie Right, I need to find Katie.

He goes to the door. Spencer stands up. Archie turns around, and Spencer dives back in front of the pet carrier.

Archie Spencer.

Spencer Yeah?

Archie Nothing.

He exits. Spencer goes to the pet carrier and opens it. He peers into it and his face falls. Confused, he takes out another dead hamster. He shakes it, nothing. He storms out, tossing the dead hamster under the table and throwing the pet aside. Moon comes back in, upset.

She goes straight to the buffet table and picks up a cupcake.

Moon YES!

She begins devouring the cake.

Paul enters stage left, as 'Walrus Paulrus'.

Paul (trying to jog her memory with increasing desperation) Eh? Eh? Eh? Eh? EH?!

He fails and leaves stage right as Walrus Paulrus, devastated.

Moon continues to eat and accidentally treads on the dead hamster. She springs back and sees it.

Moon Oh no . . . oh my God! Oh my God I'm Spencer!

She picks up the dead hamster and puts it in the discarded pet carrier.
Katie comes in.

Katie Moon!

Moon quickly turns, hiding the pet carrier under one of the school desks.

Moon Argh! What?

Katie Have you seen Spencer?

Simon looks in through the window in the door. Hse turns to grab
Chemise.

Moon No. Sorry. Sorry.

*She runs out with the dead hamster as **Simon** enters with **Chemise** the other way (believing **Moon** is still there). **Chemise** enters and they begin the break-up scene again. She stresses the wrong words throughout.*

Chemise Oh Simon! Simon, I can't do this any more!

Katie watches, bewildered.

Simon Why? What's wrong?

Chemise You're too much for me. You're too much for me.
In bed. I have to leave you.

Simon Chemise, please!

Chemise I just feel inadequate next to you . . .

Simon (*prompts*) Dwarfed by your accomplish -

Chemise Dwarfed by your accomplishments! You should be with another entrepreneur.

Simon But where will you go?

Chemise I don't know.

Simon hands **Chemise** a set of car keys.

Simon Here, take my Bentley. I can buy another one.

Chemise Thank you, Simon. I shall miss you and your house which has a pool.

Simon Goodbye, Chemise.

Chemise FAREWELL!

She runs out dramatically.

Simon Sorry, you weren't supposed to see that.

He turns to see Katie is there and Moon isn't.

Katie Yeah, I'm so sorry, Simon.

Simon No, you really weren't supposed to see that. Chemise!

He exits, revealing Chemise.

Simon And again. Give it some more . . . Do more arms!

Chemise and **Simon** exit. **Spencer** enters, now out of breath, with another, identical pet carrier.

Spencer I've got one! The other one died.

Katie I know, I saw.

Spencer No, not that one. That one died, but also the other one died. It's okay, this one's a pretty similar colour.

Katie Spencer, I need to talk to you about something.

Spencer The kiss? We shouldn't have kissed, it was bad. Very bad kiss. Many dead hamsters.

Katie It's not about that –

Spencer And Archie – we should tell Archie.

Katie About the hamster?

Spencer About the kiss! No one must know about the hamster. I cannot be the guy who is still flopping hamsters in his thirties.

Katie No, we cannot tell Archie about the kiss. I have to show you something –

Archie comes in.

Archie Hey! There you are.

Spencer hides the pet carrier under the school desk as used by **Moon**, knocking the other pet carrier to the front of the desk.

Archie Katie, can I have a word?

Katie Of course.

Archie takes **Katie** to one side.

Archie Katie. What is that paper?

Katie It's Spencer's Year Nine exam paper. I think he got held back by mistake or something – look, it never got marked. I need to show him –

Archie Don't.

Katie Why not?

Archie Because what if you're right? He'd be heartbroken. He's better off not knowing.

Katie No Arch, he's got a right to know, it ruined his life!

Archie It didn't ruin his life. It just . . . disturbed his life. We can't change it now and even if we could why would you want to, Spencer's a happy, regular, well-adjusted guy.

Behind them Spencer goes back to the pet carrier at the front of the desk (the one left by Moon), opens it and discovers another dead hamster inside. He bangs it on the table trying to wake it up.

Spencer Why is there so much death?!

Archie It didn't make any difference.

Katie Yes it did, getting held back that year has ruined him, he's not grown up, he lives in the same town, he manages a pet shop, he doesn't get any exercise, he's completely unmotivated.

Spencer I must run to the pet shop immediately!

He dashes out with the pet carrier.

Archie See, he's fine.

Katie He's not fine.

Archie It could have been a lot worse. Look at Simon, for example, terrible job, massive chip on his shoulder and twenty minutes ago I saw him breaking up with Shirt.

Katie That's weird. I saw them break up about five minutes ago.

Archie Maybe they got back together for a bit?

Katie People don't get back together that quickly.

Moon enters.

Moon (*seeing a text come in*) Ah! I'm back with Mark.

Katie It was the strangest thing I've ever heard. She said she felt inadequate next to him.

Archie Yeah, dwarfed by his accomplishments.

Katie Yeah, yeah, and she said he was too much . . .

Archie/Katie In bed.

Archie And then he gave her a Bentley.

Katie Another Bentley?!

Moon Wow. Who would have thought you could make so much money selling lemon biscuits?

Archie He sells urinal cakes.

Moon Ugh!

She spits out some yellow chunks.

Katie What else did they say?

Simon (*from outside*) Now.

Chemise explodes into the room again with **Simon** chasing behind.
Katie, Archie and **Moon** watch on in disbelief.

Chemise OH, SIMON! Simon I can't do this any more!

Simon Why? What's wrong?

Chemise (*flapping her arms*) You're too much for me, you're too much for me in bed. I have to leave you.

Simon Chemise, please!

Chemise I just feel inadequate next to you . . .

Archie (*prompting*) Dwarfed by your accomplishments.

Chemise Dwarfed by your accomplishments. Thanks. You should be with another entrepreneur.

Simon But where will you go?

Chemise I don't know.

Simon Here . . .

He looks for the keys but doesn't have them. Chemise hands them back to him. He hands them back to her.

Simon Take my Bentley. I can buy another one.

Chemise Thank you, Simon. I shall miss you and your house which has a pool.

Simon Goodbye, Chemise.

Chemise (*maximum passion*) FAREWELL!!

She runs out dramatically.

Simon Sorry, you weren't supposed to see that.

Moon Oh my God . . . You have a pool?

Katie Of course he doesn't.

Archie What on earth is going on?

Simon Erm . . .

82 Groan Ups

Katie Why has Chemise broken up with you three times?

Simon We have an on-again off-again relationship.

Moon Hashtag me too.

Katie You're not using that right!

Spencer runs in exhausted with another pet carrier.

Spencer Got it!

He slips, falls and crushes the hamster.

Come on!

He throws it away in frustration and sprints straight out. **Paul** enters now at breaking point.

Paul That is it! I have asked everybody in this building and not one person remembers me!

Archie Why's she just waiting in the corridor?

Katie She's an actress.

Moon Yeah! She was a cage-fighter in that episode of *Holby City*.

Paul How can you remember her and not remember me? I was a legend! I am Paul! I was so talented the school renamed all the games after me! Footpaul! Basketpaul! Badminpaul! Everyone knew me!! I was the bloody king of Bloomsbury Comprehensive!

He drops to his knees.

Archie This is Bloomfield's.

Paul Ahhh! I thought the building was a different shape. I've got a reunion to get to. Thank you all for a lovely evening. Goodnight.

He exits.

Moon Simon's married to an actress?

Katie No, he's hired an actress.

Simon It's not true. She's left me. She's gone for good.

Chemise comes back in with a piece of paper.

Chemise Ten o'clock. Here's my invoice.

Simon Not now!

Looks at the invoice.

She's added VAT.

He takes out his inhaler and puffs on it.

Stop looking at me like that! (*Lisps.*) I've changed! I've changed.

Spencer arrives, red-faced and breathless, holding a very large pet box.

Spencer Okay. This one is not similar!

Katie What colour is it?

Spencer It's a snake.

Archie What happened to the hamster?

Spencer I flopped him. Alright! I flopped him. Don't worry. Kids love snakes.

Reads the tag on the box.

Especially Gaboon Vipers.

Katie It wasn't Spencer's fault.

Spencer It's fine. I've got a snake now, no more hamsters have to die.

He loads the snake into the hamster cage. The cage shakes as the snake eats all the hamsters in the cage.

No!

Moon Wow, you guys really haven't changed.

Simon YES I HAVE! I'm a success, I sold more urinal cakes June to July than anyone else in the company. I was keynote speaker at the Toilet-ware Conference 'There's No I in Wee'.

I'm a businessman. How's your business, Moon? Ooh sorry, non-existent? What have you done with your life?

Moon Simon, my restaurant is not non-existent, it's pre-existent. Gwyneth Paltrow says it's in the potential creative ether waiting for me to actualise it.

Spencer You don't have a restaurant!

Moon Alright, Pet Shop Boy.

Archie Hey, there's nothing wrong with working in a pet shop. Spence's following his dream.

Moon By shovelling mouse crap?

Spencer Mouse crap doesn't require a shovel.

Simon Not exactly success though, is it?

Spencer At least I have pubes.

Simon I have pubes.

Spencer Man without pubes says what?

Simon What?

Spencer Whey!

Simon Oh, funny, Spencer! You're so bloody funny aren't you! But is it as funny when I jump out the window?!?

He climbs up on to the window ledge and opens the window.

Archie Simon, what are you doing?

Simon Killing myself.

Spencer Get down, mate. Oh, it's not high enough, Simon, you'll just break an arm or something.

Simon Is it any wonder I'm like this? I'm like this because of all of you! You erased my name from the register and the teacher forgot about me for a whole year. My first kiss was with a fish!

Archie You said you'd forgotten about all that.

Simon Well, I obviously haven't, have I?! I think about it daily and that's why I'm a knob now! That's why I park in disabled spaces, that's why I empty out the Save the Children box on reception every Friday evening before I lock up, that's why when someone orders ten packs of urinal cakes I send them eight and when they call up to complain I pretend to be Spanish. That's why I paid Chemise to come with me tonight.

I just . . . I just want you to like me. I want you to respect me. I want someone who loves me.

Moon Tragic.

Simon Shut up! You are not a nice person! I don't even like you and I'm in love with you!

Moon Whatever, Simon. I'm the most popular girl in school.

Katie WE'RE NOT AT SCHOOL ANY MORE!

Moon UM. YES WE ARE.

Katie I can't believe I ever listened to you. You haven't changed a bit since you were fourteen.

Moon Oh my God, thank you.

Katie It's not a compliment! You were shallow and bitter and insecure then, and you still are now . . .

Moon Spencer and Katie kissed tonight.

Archie WHAT?!

Katie MOON!

Moon (*mocking*) KATIE!

Katie Archie, I'm so sorry, yes, we did kiss.

Archie You kissed Spencer?

Katie It was just a moment of madness.

Spencer It was.

Katie We were out of our minds.

Spencer We were.

Katie I felt sick afterwards.

Spencer Alright.

Katie But it didn't mean anything.

Spencer Didn't it?

Archie What?! Did it mean something to you?

Spencer Well, I feel like now's not the time to discuss it.

Archie Now is absolutely the time to discuss it!

Spencer I wouldn't say it didn't mean anything. We used to be together, after all.

Simon Alright, I'm jumping!

Moon Not now, Simon, this is getting good.

Katie Spencer, we were fourteen.

Spencer So?

Katie So, I'm married now.

Spencer Come on, you can't say you never wondered what could have been between us.

Katie I . . . Well . . .

Archie Katie!

Katie Spencer, you never said anything. After we finished school, before the wedding. You never told me.

Spencer You dumped me. I felt terrible. I failed my test, got held back and you dumped me.

Archie So what?! You kissed my wife!

Spencer Technically you married my girlfriend.

Archie You weren't together, she was fair game!

Spencer You stole her from me!

Katie Are you done marking your territory or would one of you like to piss on me?

Simon I'm not into that.

Spencer My life got ruined because I failed one stupid test.

Katie You might not have failed!

Spencer What?

Moon What?

Archie Shit.

Katie I found it. Unmarked. Here.

Spencer My end-of-year . . .

Archie Spence I, I, I forgive you.

Spencer Where was it?

Katie Behind the grate.

Spencer The hideaway?

He looks at Archie.

Spencer Arch?

Archie Yes. Yes. Yes. I . . . Sorry.

Katie What?

Archie It, um . . . it is possible that back in Year Nine I hid your end-of-year paper.

Katie You did?!

Spencer No. It was marked. I got an F. That's why I got held back.

Archie No, I filled out another paper, so you'd . . . fail.

Katie Archie, why did you do this?

Archie I just . . . I dunno -

Spencer You're the reason I'm shovelling mouse crap?

Moon I knew you shovelled it and I knew it bothered you.

Katie It's your fault he works in a pet shop.

Archie We don't know he would have passed.

Katie Well then, let's find out.

Archie No! No good can come from marking that exam now. What are you gonna do if you passed, go back to Year Ten?

Moon Oh my God, I would love that.

Spencer I . . . I don't know.

He goes to open the paper.

Archie No, Spence. Don't do it!

Moon Definitely do it!

Archie He's not going to read it.

Katie He wants to read it.

Archie We're not reading it.

He grabs the paper.

Spencer Oi, give it!

Archie runs round the room, darting about the desks, mirroring the chase from Act Two (with the song lyrics).

Archie No! You don't need to see it, Spence.

Spencer I got held back and lost all my friends because what? You liked Katie and couldn't stand the fact that she liked me.

Archie She's my wife!

Spencer I saw her first. Arch, give it!

He tries to grab the paper again but Archie pushes him away. They tussle for a moment.

Katie I'm getting a teacher.

Katie exits. **Spencer** grabs the space-hopper and hits **Archie** with it. He drops the paper and falls into the buffet table, knocking food and drink everywhere, hurting himself.

Silence. **Spencer** picks up the paper.

Spencer Why did you do this, Archie?

Archie I don't know.

Spencer You don't know?! What do you mean, you don't know?!

Archie I was jealous!

Spencer What?

Archie It was when you wrote that song for Katie. I was jealous!

Spencer That's it? That's all you've got to say? You were jealous of me.

Archie I wasn't jealous of you.

Spencer So you were jealous of . . . my music?

Archie No. I was jealous of Katie.

Spencer Of Katie? Why?

Katie re-enters.

Archie Because I wanted you.

He turns to see Katie.

Archie Oh shit, Kate.

Katie Mr Murray-White . . . says he'll be up . . . once he's finished his wine.

Beat.

Archie Kate . . .

Katie Archie is that true?

Beat.

90 Groan Ups

Katie Is what you just said true?

Silence. **Archie** nods.

Katie You've always felt like that?

Archie nods.

Katie You felt like that at school?

Archie I'm sorry.

Katie You felt like that at our wedding?

Archie It's complicated.

Silence. **Archie** goes to **Katie** and tries to hug her.

Katie Get off me.

Archie Kate, please . . .

Katie slaps him.

Katie Did you ever love me?

Archie I did. I do. I just – You don't understand.

Katie You're right. I don't.

Moon Homophobic.

Katie Shut up.

Moon It's okay to be gay.

Katie I know! I know! Be gay! Just don't be gay and marry me!

Archie I'm sorry . . . I'm so sorry, Kate. But . . . I was so scared. And lonely. Can you imagine what it's like to grow up hating yourself and trying to hide it then . . . hating yourself for hiding it? Feeling like you're only half a person, because there's a whole other half of you that you can't let anyone see. I know I hurt you. I lied to you. But for so long I thought I could change it if I just kept at it. I could fix it. I spent nights praying 'Please God let me be normal.' I just wanted to be normal. And my dad . . . my bloody dad . . . I didn't mean to . . . I didn't want . . . I'm so sorry.

Katie Don't be sorry! Don't be sorry . . .

Archie You're my best friend, Kate.

Katie You're my best friend too . . . of course you are. But –
Her phone rings. She answers.

(On the phone.) Hello? Okay.

(To Archie.) Archie, Molly's got a fever.

(On the phone.) Hello, sweetheart . . . Oh my poor baby . . .
Don't worry, Mummy and Daddy are going to come home
right now . . . I love you. See you ever so soon. (*Hangs up.*)

Archie, are you coming?

Archie Yeah. Yeah, of course. Are you . . . alright?

Katie Yes. Just thinking. How will we divide up the Nectar
points?

Archie It'll be okay.

Katie (nods) Let's go home and look after Molly. Then we'll
pour two very large glasses of wine and we'll . . . talk.

Archie Yeah. I'll bring the car round.

He leaves.

Simon I should probably make a move too. High Wycombe's
not going to live in itself.

He steps down from the window-ledge.

Moon Yeah, we should definitely do this again.

Spencer Take care, Simon. Always a pleasure.

Simon You too. Good to see you Moon.

Moon Night Simon.

Simon Goodnight.

He heads off.

Moon Simon.

Simon *stops.*

Moon . . . I'm sure your penis isn't just medical.

Simon (*slightly moved*) Thank you.

He goes but stops and turns in the doorway.

Spencer What?

Simon Anne has my car keys.

He smiles.

Moon Who's Anne?

Simon Chemise. Her real name's Anne. She's not called Chemise obviously, it means shirt.

Spencer and Moon *smile back.*

Simon I can't get home!

Moon You really gave her a Bentley?

Simon No. I re-badged a Fiat Punto.

They all laugh again and eventually it subsides.

Moon I can drop you off if you'd like.

Simon Wow. I mean yes, okay, if . . . yeah, alright, thanks.

Moon No worries.

She walks over to Katie.

Moon Katie . . . You're actually sitting on my coat.

Simon *follows.*

Simon I don't really have a pool either.

Moon That's okay, I don't have a restaurant.

Moon and Simon *go, leaving Spencer and Katie alone.*

Katie I'm sorry we lost touch, Spence.

Spencer I'm sorry too.

Katie I did wonder . . . sometimes.

Spencer Oh?

Katie You remind me of a time when I thought I could be anything. But the more I think about it the more I think we were just kids when we were going out. We just weren't together long enough for the cracks to show. We build up these relationships in our minds but in real life it's never quite what you imagined.

*Suddenly **Simon** and **Moon** slam against the glass window in the door, making out horribly, then disappear from view.*

Katie In my mind it's all so perfect. But maybe it's best to leave it like that. In my mind. Where it's perfect.

Spencer They're beautiful, aren't they? The lives you don't live.

*Beat. **Katie** puts on her coat.*

Katie If I ever need a hamster I'll know who to call.

Spencer We're currently out of stock. Look after Archie.

Katie Of course.

***Katie** leaves. **Spencer** takes a piece of paper and draws a picture of a hamster, then sticks it onto the front of the hamster cage. He leans on the desk and accidentally presses the projector remote again.*

Voice Now exhausted, the male dies.

***Spencer** turns it off, annoyed. We hear a squeak from within the remaining pet carrier. **Spencer** sits down and opens the pet carrier on his lap. **Archie** enters.*

Spencer I'm not eating it.

Archie Forgot my coat.

Spencer Sure.

***Archie** takes his coat. **Spencer** closes the pet carrier.*

Spencer How are you . . . feeling?

Archie Yeah. Okay. Pretty normal. I suppose just a bit . . . ‘What now?’ You know?

Spencer Right. Hey, we’ve uh, got a spare ticket for Glastonbury if you want to join us? Get the band back together? Be really cool to have a gay lobster.

Archie Maybe. Yeah. Spence, I . . . I’m so sorry. About the exam paper.

Spencer It’s alright.

Archie No, it’s not. I had no right to do what I did. You should mark it.

Spencer There’s no need.

Archie You have to. You need to know. What I did was awful and if you’d have passed then I’ll never forgive myself.

Spencer Then I don’t want to know.

He rips up the paper.

Archie Thanks, Spencer.

Spencer It’s okay, Archie. Love you.

Archie Yeah.

They hug

Blackout.

Curtain call followed by an Angry Lobsters number.

'Trigonometry Blues' Lyrics

Chorus 1

I wanna get out of school
I learned my lesson
I wanna get out of school and stay there
I wanna get out of school
I learned my lesson
I wanna get out of school and stay there
Waste away there.

Verse 1

That bit's too big
And so then this bit's too small
It just makes no sense at all
My body *feels disjointed*
'Pi' wasn't 'pie'
So when we learned about Pi
I thought we'd be eating pie
And I was *disappointed*
Ditching my lunch
Cos my mum packed my lunch
But I just want Monster Munch
Cos I am *sick of tuna*
Made up a joke
And told my best friend the joke
Now he says it's his joke
Should've *I'd said it sooner*

Bridge

I'm saving up to buy a car
So I can drive you crazy
I got served at ASDA
And got four WKDs

96 Groan Ups

Chorus 2

I wanna get out of school
I learned my lesson
I wanna get out of school and stay there
I wanna get out of school
I learned my lesson
I wanna get out of school and stay there
Waste away there.
Waste a . . .

Recorder solo

Verse 2

Waste away there
Dragged my shoe on the floor
On the gymnasium floor
You know that rubbery floor?
So people *think I farted!*
Urgh, I'm so clenched
History's got me so tense
I cannot make any sense
Out of the Magna Carta
Can't find my pen
Because I gave it to Ben
And then he lent it to Gwen
Who passed it on to Igor
Windows Excel
Can just piss off as well
Because the IT department
Are just *nerds with keyboards*

Bridge

I'm failing physics, maths and art
Even though I don't care
I forgot to write this part
Not good at academia
Eating my lunch in the loos
So no one sees me

I can't get rid of this glue from DT
Got trigonometry blues
I got caught cheating
Maybe I'll stay in the loos
Just stay here
Waste away here

Chorus 3

I wanna go back to school
Start all over
I wanna go back to school and stay there
I wanna go back to school
Start all over
I wanna go back to school and stay there
Waste away there
Waste away there
Waste away there

End.

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